



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol,
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1921** (Maienschein) – as Amended on February 27, 2018 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Gonzalez Fletcher:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1921 (Maienschein), legislation that would remove the 16 consecutive day requirement for temporary housing assistance and allow CalWORKs recipients to use permanent housing assistance payment towards shared housing.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in our state and throughout the country. While often hidden, homelessness among families with children is at an all-time high. The CalWORKs program works to alleviate the problem of child homelessness by providing temporary and permanent housing assistance to families with children.

CalWORKs currently provides temporary housing assistance for 16 consecutive days during one year to homeless families with children. This means that any one instance of receiving temporary housing assistance, even if it is for less than 16 days in total, bars the family from receiving additional assistance for a year. This limit has unintended consequences, such as placing a homeless family in the difficult position of deciding whether to accept or forego an offer of temporary housing from family or friends or whether to pursue employment or housing opportunities in a different area of the state and risk losing eligibility for additional assistance should they become homeless again within the year.

Additionally, current law and regulations require CalWORKs recipients who are homeless and requesting permanent housing assistance to secure housing with a commercial establishment or a person in the business of renting properties. As a result, suitable shared-home living accommodations for families with children cannot be used to prevent or ameliorate homelessness among CalWORKs households. AB 1921 would increase options for our state's most challenged families with children, while also improving the effectiveness of the CalWORKs program's homelessness interventions.

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For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1921 and respectfully requests an "Aye" vote. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Lovingood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Lovingood" clearly distinguishable.

Robert A. Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation